

Due to the strong ethnic bond which the Cultural Society provided, its activity and membership grew exponentially. The society's most active years came under the region of Mr. G. Mesernicky, who was president during the 1960's and 70's. Under his leadership, the society operated a Russian language school, a radio program, a newsletter, and a youth group. It is clear that the society has succeeded in achieving its commendable goal of preserving Russian tradition in the city of Cleveland. To this day, they continue to bring Russian-Americans together for various cultural and social events, including picnics, concerts, lectures, plays, and most notably, the annual Tatiana Ball.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in congratulating the Russian American Cultural Society on its Golden Anniversary. They have made a lasting contribution to the city of Cleveland, and I wish them many more years of continued success.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CONGRESSMAN SIDNEY YATES

HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2000

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, Sid Yates—his tenure in Congress embodied knowledge, humility, and tolerance, the pillars that support the essence of democracy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, 2000, I was unavoidably delayed in traveling to Washington, DC, as a result of a mechanical problem with an airplane. As a result, I was unable to attend three votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "Yea" on rollcall vote No. 519, the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act (S. 2438); "yea" on rollcall vote No. 520, allowing for the contribution of certain rollover distributions to accounts in the Thrift Savings Plan and to eliminate certain waiting period requirements for participating in the Thrift Savings Plan (H.R. 208); "yea" on rollcall vote No. 521, the Lupus Research and Care Amendments (H.R. 762).

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 2796, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to thank Congressman BOB FRANKS and Congressman BOB MENENDEZ for including critical flood control research funding in the 2000 Water Resources Development Act for the State of New Jersey.

This issue is a matter of great importance to each of our districts and all of our constituents. Our home state is confronted with an array of complex challenges related to the environment and economic development. However, one issue in particular, the over development of land, is of special concern because of its impact on our watersheds and floodplains, and economic activity throughout the state.

As many of my colleagues already know, this past August vast parts of northern New Jersey were devastated by flooding caused by severe rainfall. The resulting natural disaster threatened countless homes, bridges and roads, not to mention the health, safety and welfare of area residents. The total figure for damages in Sussex and Morris Counties has been estimated at over \$50 million, and area residents are still fighting to restore some degree of normalcy to their lives.

While the threat of future floods continues to plague the region, one New Jersey institution is taking concrete steps to prevent another catastrophe. The New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) has been studying the challenges posed by flooding and stormwater flows for some time, and is interested in forming a multi-agency federal partnership to continue this important research.

NJIT is one of our state's premier research institutions and is uniquely equipped to carry out this critical stormwater research. The university has a long and distinguished tradition of responding to difficult public-policy challenges such as environmental emissions standards, aircraft noise, traffic congestion and alternative energy.

More broadly, NJIT has demonstrated an institutional ability to direct its intellectual resources to the examination of problems beyond academia, and its commitment to research allows it to serve as a resource for unbiased technological information and analysis.

An excellent opportunity for NJIT to partner with the federal government and solve the difficult problem of flood control has presented itself in the 2000 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

At the request of Congressman BOB FRANKS and Congressman BOB MENENDEZ, the final version of this important legislation includes a provision directing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop and implement a stormwater flood control project in New Jersey and report back to Congress within three years on its progress.

While the Corps of Engineers is familiar with this problem at the national level, it does not have the firsthand knowledge and experience in New Jersey that NJIT has accrued in its 119 years of service. I know that Congressman FRANKS and MENENDEZ have already submitted statements requesting NJIT participate in this important research, and I urge the Army Corps to agree to their proposal. Including NJIT's expertise and experience in this research effort is a logical step and would greatly benefit the Army Corps, as well as significantly improve the project's chances of success.

I urge the New York District of Corps of Engineers to work closely with my colleagues and me to ensure NJIT's full participation in this study. By working together, we can create a nexus between the considerable flood control expertise of the Army Corps and NJIT, and finally solve this difficult problem for the people of New Jersey. I hope my colleagues will support efforts towards this end.

HONORING MURRAY LENDER ON HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2000

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to a community leader, a philanthropist, a humanitarian, and a great friend, Murray Lender, on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Murray's father, Harry Lender, introduced bagels to the people of this country. Murray continued that tradition as chairman of Lender's Bagel Bakery, the world's largest bagel bakery. He revolutionized the bagel industry when he began the process of freezing bagels in the late 1950s, bringing to life his father's dream of "a bagel on every table." His astute business sense was recognized by the National Frozen Food Association, which inducted him into the Frozen Food Hall of Fame, only the sixth person to be so honored. He also received the International Deli-Bakery Association's Hall of Fame Award and has been selected Man of the Year by numerous industry associations. But these achievements are dwarfed by what Murray has done for the people of Greater New Haven, of Connecticut, and of his country through his myriad of philanthropic and humanitarian works.

Murray's efforts in New Haven have truly been exceptional. He and his family have given generously of their time and resources to Quinnipiac University. Murray was given the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1991. His family's efforts have provided students with a top-notch business program that allows students to benefit from the practical knowledge, business acumen, and impressive record of success that Murray and his family have achieved. In 1997, Murray was awarded an honoray Doctorate of Humane Letters from his alma mater, Quinnipiac College. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Quinnipiac, where his contributions to that institution continue. In addition, he serves as co-chair of the Yale University School of Medicine Cardiovascular Research Fund.

Murray has also had a tremendous impact on our community through his work with a variety of service organizations including the New Haven Jewish Community Center, the American Heart Association, the Leukemia Society of America and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. While he built an incredibly successful business, Murray contributed not just money but, more notably, his time, to these worthy efforts.

Murray has also been an active member of our nation's Jewish community, participating in numerous events, contributing time and financial resources, and forwarding the cause of peace in the Middle East. The Anti-Defamation League has bestowed upon him its highest honor, the Torch of Liberty Award, in recognition of a profound record of public service.

In every way, Murray has been an outstanding citizen and community member. He serves as a role model to us all. He has had a profound effect on our community and our nation. I am honored to join his brother, Marvin; his sons, Harris, Carl and Jay; along with other family members and friends; in wishing him many more years of health and happiness. Happy birthday Murray.